

Message Text

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ACTION SNM-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 L-03 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 TRSE-00 ICA-11
NSC-05 OES-07 OMB-01 AID-05 EB-08 /079 W
-----102293 161730Z /42
R 161651Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0877

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MEXICO 09932

EO: 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, MX
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS - COMPUTER PROJECT

REF: (A) 77 MEXICO 12344; (B) 77 STATE 210085 (C) SOHLIN-
LINNEMANN MEMO OF 27 MARCH 1978

1. (BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED) EMBASSY NOTES IN REF (C) THAT
DEPARTMENT HAS RESERVED \$200,000 IN FY 1978 FUNDS TO
SUPPORT ATTORNEY GENERAL'S COMPUTER PROJECT, WHICH WAS
INAUGURATED BY A LETTER OF AGREEMENT DATED 06 SEPTEMBER
1977. OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS OF AGREEMENT AS PROPOSED IN
REF (A) AND AMENDED BY REF (B) READ:

(A) "THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES AGREES TO PROVIDE
TECHNICAL SERVICES AND FUNDING ON AN ADVANCE OR REIM-
BURSABLE BASIS, AS MUTUALLY AGREED UPON, FOR THE COMPU-
TERIZATION OF INFORMATION IN DIRECT SUPPORT OF PROGRAMS
AGAINST THE ILLEGAL PRODUCTION OF AND TRAFFIC IN NARCOTICS.
THE COST TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR THE ABOVE
PURPOSE SHALL NOT EXCEED TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS
(U.S.\$200,000).

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(B) "THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO AGREES TO PROVIDE: (1)
COMPUTER TIME ON A COMPUTER SUITED FOR THE PROGRAMS OF THE
TYPE REQUIRED; (2) NECESSARY SUPPORT FACILITIES INCLUDING
CONNECTIONS BETWEEN TERMINALS TO BE PROVIDED AND AN
EXISTING COMPUTER; AND (3) ADEQUATE NUMBERS OF QUALIFIED
PERSONNEL TO MAN A COMPUTER CENTER AND SATELLITE TER-

MINALS TO SERVE THE ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORT.

(C) " IT IS FURTHER AGREED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES WILL JOINTLY DEVELOP A PLAN OF ACTION TO FACILITATE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROGRAM."

2. CURRENT STATUS OF PROJECT. USING THE ABOVE FUNDS, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (AG) SIGNED A RENTAL CONTRACT WITH THE CONTROL DATA CORPORATION (CDC), WHICH AGREED TO PROVIDE BASIC TERMINAL LOCATIONS IN MEXICO CITY, GUADALAJARA, CULIACAN, TIJUANA, CHIHUAHUA AND NUEVO LAREDO. IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE PROJECT COST, THE AG NEGOTIATED AN AGREEMENT WITH THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE TO USE ITS TWO CYBER-71 MAINFRAMES ON A TIME-SHARING BASIS. THE ANNUAL COST OF THE CDC CONTRACT, INCLUDING MAINTENANCE, IS \$130,000; ONE TIME INSTALLATION FEES BROUGHT THE FIRST-YEAR COSTS TO \$181,000.

3. BEGINNING FROM SCRATCH LESS THAN ONE YEAR AGO, THE AG NOW HAS A TOTAL OF 50 EMPLOYEES WORKING AS KEY-TO-DISC OPERATORS, PROGRAMMERS AND ANALYSTS IN THE DATA PROCESSING UNIT (DPU). THE STAFF WORKS TWO FULL-TIME SHIFTS IN MEXICO CITY AND SINGLE-SHIFT IN THE OUTLYING AREAS, AND IS CURRENTLY COMPILING ALL INFORMATION CONCERNING PERSONS ARRESTED, VEHICLE AND AIRCRAFT LOOK-OUTS AND SEIZED OR STOLEN WEAPONS. COMPUTER SPECIALISTS FROM STATE, AID, AND

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DEA HAVE INSPECTED THE OPERATION AT VARIOUS TIMES AND HAVE REPORTED THAT THE PROGRAM IS PROCEEDING WELL. DEA ARRANGED FOR THE CHIEF OF THE DPU TO VISIT ITS HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON AND THE EL PASO INTELLIGENCE CENTER TO OBSERVE NARCOTICS-ORIENTED COMPUTER OPERATIONS AND ASSURE THAT THE AG'S SYSTEM IS COMPATIBLE WITH OUR OWN.

4. THE GOM IS PROCEEDING TO IMPLEMENT THE PLAN DEVELOPED DURING THE VISIT OF AID COMPUTER-SPECIALIST RUOTOLA, WHOSE DRAFT REPORT (EMBASSY HAS NOT SEEN FINAL TEXT) INDICATES THAT NO ABNORMAL PROBLEMS WERE IDENTIFIED AND THAT WORK IN ALL AREAS WAS PROCEEDING AT A PACE WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE IN THE UNITED STATES. THERE IS A DEFINITE MANAGEMENT COMMITMENT, ORIGINATING WITH AG FLORES HIMSELF AND PERMEATING THROUGHOUT THE STRUCTURE, TO MAKE THE PROJECT WORK. (END UNCLASSIFIED).

5. (BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL) PART OF THE PROJECT, NOT DETAILED IN WRITING FOR POLITICAL REASONS, IS THE ESTABLISHMENT IN THE EMBASSY OF A DEA "PATHFINDER" TERMINAL AND A DIRECT TELEX LINK FROM THE EMBASSY TO THE AG COMPUTER CENTER. THIS WILL PERMIT DEA HERE TO RECEIVE DIRECTLY FROM THE

"PATHFINDER" SYSTEM LOOKOUT AND OTHER INFORMATION WHICH, ONCE SCREENED BY A DEA OFFICER, CAN BE TRANSMITTED BY TELEX DIRECTLY TO THE AG COMPUTER CENTER FOR DISSEMINATION THROUGH THE LOOKOUT NETWORK ESTABLISHED BY THE AG COMPUTER. THE AG-EMBASSY TELEX LINK WILL ALSO PERMIT AG PERSONNEL TO QUERY DEA'S "PATHFINDER" DATA BASE IN VIRTUALLY REAL-TIME TRANSACTIONS BROKEN ONLY BY A DEA OFFICER INTERFACE. "PATHFINDER" EXPENSES ARE NOT REPEAT NOT CHARGED TO ASSISTANCE FUNDS.

6. ONCE THE "PATHFINDER" TERMINAL IN THE EMBASSY GOES ON LINE, CURRENTLY ESTIMATED FOR AUGUST 1978, EMBASSY WOULD WELCOME A COMBINED VISIT BY RUOTOLA AND A DEA COMPUTER

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NSC-05 OES-07 OMB-01 AID-05 EB-08 /079 W
-----102404 161732Z /42

R 161651Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0878

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SPECIALIST TO LOOK OVER BOTH SYSTEMS, ASSURE THAT MAXIMUM COMPATIBILITY IS OBTAINED, AND GIVE US A TECHNICAL EVALUATION AND UPDATE ON THE AG SYSTEM. (END CONFIDENTIAL).

7. (BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED) IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE PROGRESS, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT ADDITIONAL FUNDS BE MADE AVAILABLE TO RENT THE SYSTEM FROM CDC FOR AN ADDITIONAL YEAR AND TO ALLOW FOR MODEST EXPANSION OF THE TERMINAL NETWORK IN OUTLYING CITIES IMPORTANT TO THE NARCOTICS PROGRAM (POSSIBLY HERMOSILLO, MONTERREY AND MERIDA). WE BELIEVE THAT THE BEST WAY TO ACCOMPLISH THE ABOVE IS TO AMEND THE EXISTING AGREEMENT TO INCREASE THE FUNDING LEVEL.

8. RECOMMENDATION: THAT THE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZE THE EMBASSY TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT AMENDING THE 06 SEPTEMBER

1977 AGREEMENT TO INCREASE THE FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR THIS
PROJECT FROM \$200,000 TO \$400,000. (END UNCLASSIFIED).
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NARCOTICS, COMPUTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MEXICO09932
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780252-0431
Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780651/aaaabron.tel
Line Count: 172
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: acd25087-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SNM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MEXICO 12344, 77 STATE 210085
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2323309
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS - COMPUTER PROJECT
TAGS: SNAR, MX
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/acd25087-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014